

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080089

FOL REPEAT CANBERRA 2420 ACTION SECSTATE INFO WELLINGTON 2 APR.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2494

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON SHORTFALL ISSUE

REF: STATE 078385, CANBERRA 2420

1. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT ABOUT THE FACT THAT
AUSTRALIA PLANS TO TAKE A HARD LINE ON THE SHORTFALL
REALLOCATION PROVISION GIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO
CENTRAL AMERICA. GOA OFFICIALS HERE HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY
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WILL FIGHT THIS ISSUE TO THE END. AND IF NECESSARY, TAKE IT

ALL THE WAY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THEY SAY IT IS THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROVISION THAT DISTURBS THEM CLAIMING IF THIS ONE IS OVERLOOKED, IT COULD ESCALATE TO FURTHER DISCRIMINATORY CLAUSES AND PROVISIONS IN THE FUTURE. GOA OFFICIALS HAVE POINTED OUT ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THEIR DISPLEASURE ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PROVISION WAS AGREED UPON BEFORE OTHER SUPPLYING COUNTRIES WERE CONSULTED.

2. THE AMB HAS NOT MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING THE SHORTFALL REALLOCATION PROVISION AS THE BOARD HAS BEEN UNDER TOO MUCH CRITICISM ABOUT THE WAY THE DIVERSIFICATION SCHEME AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES ARE BEING HANDLED. HOWEVER, PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS ARE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE BOARD TO GET MORE AGGRESSIVE IN EXPORT MARKET PROGRAMS, ANCC PRESENTED A PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT ASKING IT TO MAKE SURE THAT AUSTRALIA IS GIVEN FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION ON ANY FUTURE SHORTFALL ALLOCATIONS ON THE US MARKET.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY OFFICERS FEEL THAT AUSTRALIA WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH ON THIS ISSUE. SINCE THE INITIAL ALLOCATION WAS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN WAS HOPED FOR, IT NOW MAKES THE SHORTFALL ISSUE ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT. THE GOA CLEARLY INTENDS USE BUTZ VISIT TO PRESS ITS CASE FOR SAME SHORTFALL PROVISIONS THAT WERE IN LAST YEAR'S AGREEMENT. HARGROVE

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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